

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01
ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 INR-07 IO-13 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01
STR-04 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 /099 W
-----125271 310833Z /12

R 310702Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4857

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERN 3992

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD, EFIN, SZ

SUBJECT: TDB OFFICIALS MEETING, SEPTEMBER 5-9

REF: STATE 193089

1. EMBOFF CONVEYED REFTEL TALKING POINTS TO DR. PETER SALADIN AND DR. JEAN-PIERRE BEGUIN, DIVISION OF COMMERCE. SWISS SAID THEY COULD NOT BE SPECIFIC ON TRADE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (TDB) MINISTERIAL AGENDA UNTIL THEY RECEIVED REPORTS OF DISCUSSIONS HELD DURING CURRENT REGULAR TDB MEETING IN GENEVA. HOWEVER, THEY HAD FOLLOWING INITIAL COMMENTS ON TACTICAL APPROACH TO DEB ISSUE AND MINISTERIAL.

2. SWISS HAVE NOT YET DEVELOPED DEFINITE POSITION ON TDB MINISTERIAL AGENDA BUT SHARE US DESIRE TO BROADEN AGENDA TO INCLUDE OTHER TOPICS THAN DEBT AND RELATED ISSUES. SWISS EXPECT TO SEE INTERDEPENDENCE ITEM PLACED ON AGENDA AND EXPECT THAT LDC'S
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WILL SEEK TO INCLUDE SOME ITEMS OF THEIR PARTICULAR INTEREST. SWISS WOULD LIKE TO SEE GENERAL DECLARATIONS MADE WITHOUT MUCH DETAIL ON ISSUES. SALADIN SAID HE EXPECTED COMMODITIES ON AGENDA, BUT DID NOT COMMENT ON US VIEWS REGARDING COMMODITIES STRESSED IN REFTEL TALKING POINTS. SWISS HAVE NO OBJECTION TO DATES JANUARY 23-27 FOR TDB MINISTERIAL AND BELIEVE FIVE DAYS MINIMUM REQUIRED FOR CONFERENCE. SALADIN SAID TWO DAYS

NEEDED FOR PREPARATIONS AND SETTING UP COMMITTEES, AFTER WHICH PRESENCE OF MINISTERS WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR THREE DAYS.

3. SWISS POSITION ON SUBSTANCE OF DEBT ISSUE IS CLOSE TO THAT OF US BUT THERE IS DIVERGENCE OF VIEWS ON TACTICS. SWISS QUESTION TACTICAL ADVISABILITY OF TRYING TO TAKE ENTIRE DEBT ISSUE OUT OF UNCTAD BECAUSE THEY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW TO AVOID ANY UNCTAD CONSIDERATION OF DEBT. SALADIN COMMENTED THAT US POSITION (REFTEL TALKING POINTS) MADE NO REFERENCE TO CIFT (COMMISSION ON INVISIBLE AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS RELATED TO TRADE) WHICH ALSO ESTABLISHES BASIS FOR UNCTAD INTEREST IN DEBT. SWISS ALSO BELIEVE THAT "REVIEW" OF CIEC IS NOT PROMISING TACTICAL POSITION. THIS LEADS SWISS TO ASK WHAT PROPOSAL ON DEBT GROUP B SHOULD TABLE, E.G., AN IMPROVED US/EC PROPOSAL ON DEBT (BUT NOT MELDED WITH G-19 PROPOSALS) OR CONCENTRATE ON OPTIONS AS TOWHERE ON-GOING DEBT DISCUSSIONS ARE TO BE PURSUED.

4. SIWSS WONDER WHAT IS STATUS OF US/EC CIEC PROPOSAL. SWISS FEEL IT MAY HAVE HAD STANDING ONLY IN PARIS CIEC BUT NOT IN UNCTAD CONTEXT. SALADIN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH US/EC CIEC PROPOSAL ON DEBT IS GOOD, SWISS FEEL IT COULD BE IMPROVED UPON IN SOME MINOR WAYS. HE NOTED THAT EC HAD FELT IT COULD HAVE BEEN MORE FLEXIBLE ON THIS PROPOSAL BUT US DID NOT WANT TO MAKE ANY CHANGES. SALADIN AGREED WITH US, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE TO MELD G-19 CIEC PROPOSALS TO US/EC TEXT. NEVERTHE- LESS, SWISS FEEL THAT GROUP B COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT EXCLUDE CONFIDENTIAL

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ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY FEATURES TO COMPLY WITH UNCTAD RESOLUTION ON ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES.

5. BEGUIN REMARKED THAT POSSIBLE ROLE FOR INTER-GOVERNMENTAL DEBT EXPERTS GROUP HAD NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED. HE NOTED COMMENT OF JAPANESE DELEGATE DURING JULY EXPERTS MEETING THAT MOST EXISTING STUDIES ARE OUT OF DATE BECAUSE THEY RELATE TO ECONOMIC SITUATION PREVAILING IN 1973 AND 1974 AS BASE PERIOD, WHICH WAS TIME OF ENERGY CRISIS, OIL PRICE INCREASE AND RECESSION. BEGUIN SUGGESTED AS TACTICAL APPROACH THAT EXPERTS GROUP COULD TRY TO PRODUCE STUDY ON PRESENT STAGE OF LDC'S ECONOMIES FOR SUBSEQUENT EXAMINATION OF DEBT SITUATION. SWISS ALSO FELT THERE WAS SOME MERIT TO EGYPTIAN VIEW IN JULY EXPERTS MEETING THAT "POINTS OF CONVERGENCE" SHOULD BE FOUND IN ORDER TO CONTINUE DIALOGUE AND AVOID BREAK. ODELL

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, SZ, UNCTAD, (SALADIN, PETER), (BEGUIN, JEAN-PIERRE)
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